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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Yasuo NISHIDA et al.

Group Art Unit: 2731

Appl. No. : 09/285,700

Examiner:

Filed : April 5, 1999

For : IMAGE COMMUNICATION APPARATUS AND IMAGE
COMMUNICATION METHOD

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

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In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, and supplemental to the Information Disclosure Statement filed on August 3, 1999 and the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statements filed on October 14, 1999; June 15, 2000; September 13, 2000; March 5, 2001; and May 2, 2001 in the above-identified application, Applicants hereby call to the Examiner's attention the following documents:

A copy of a Notice of Decision of the Final Rejection dated March 21, 2001 with respect to related Japanese application No. HEI 11-081406 is enclosed, together with at least a partial English-language translation, in which the following documents were cited:

Japanese Laid Open Patent Publication No. HEI 6-217069, which was published on August 5, 1994, together with an English-language Abstract; and

Japanese Laid Open Patent Publication No. HEI 6-350788, which was published on December 22, 1994, together with an English-language Abstract.

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to consider and cite the above-mentioned documents. Copies of these documents are attached and are listed on a PTO-1449 Form which is also attached hereto. The Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached PTO-1449 Form and to return a copy of the same to Applicant with the next official communication in the present application to confirm consideration of these documents.

Applicants note that an Office Action on the merits has not yet issued in the instant application. Therefore, no fee is necessary to ensure consideration of this statement.

Further, the undersigned certifies that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement. Thus, an additional ground exists for concluding that no fee ^{is} required to be paid to ensure consideration of the submitted materials.

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed number.

Respectfully submitted,
Yasuo NISHIDA et al.

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June 20, 2001
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